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Genesee County

Flint water crisis 'quarterback' sees possible treatment role for Genesee County

By Ron Fonger, MLIVE 08/28/16 8:50 AM

The state's Flint water crisis quarterback is suggesting Genesee County could take over drinking water treatment from the city, but says Flint officials will make that decision. Keith Creagh, Michigan Department of Natural Resources director, said in an interview with MLive this week that he believes Flint Mayor Karen Weaver and other city officials "are really looking at all of the options to see what makes sense" for water treatment moving forward.

County: State help not needed on Flint-area Legionella

By Jonathan Oosting & Chad Livengood, Detroit News 08/26/16 2:56 PM

The Genesee County Health Department and federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are "perfectly capable" of investigating local Legionella cases without state assistance, County Health Officer Mark Valacak said Friday. "I think given the circumstances, this is the most appropriate way to move forward," Valacak told The Detroit News, responding to a confidential court order preventing direct involvement by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

N.J. Has Among Highest Risks For Lead-Contaminated Water in U.S., Study Says

By Tom Davis, Patch 08/29/16 12:19 PM

A new U.S. Geological Survey assessment of more than 20,000 wells nationwide shows that untreated groundwater in 25 states — including New Jersey — had a potentially high risk of lead contamination. The states with the largest percentage of wells with a high prevalence of being potentially corrosive are located primarily in the Northeast, the Southeast and the Northwest, according to a release from the USGS. Two indicators of potential corrosivity were combined to determine that corrosive groundwater occurs in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Corrosive groundwater, if untreated, can dissolve lead and other metals from pipes and plumbing fixtures, according to the release.

Economy improved, but Michigan cities still in crisis

By Paul Egan, Detroit Free Press 08/29/16 12:44 AM

The City of Flint, strapped for cash as it emerges from emergency management and a public health crisis resulting from lead-poisoned drinking water, will receive \$14.4 million in state revenue-sharing payments this year — about \$50,000 less than it received last year — according to recent estimates from the Senate Fiscal Agency. But it's also \$10 million less than it received 15 years ago, in 2001. And despite the fact that net state general fund revenues are expected to increase 4.2% in the 2017 fiscal year, total state revenue sharing to local governments declined slightly this year and is only expected to rise 1.2% in 2017. Flint's increase for 2017 is expected to be slightly smaller than that, 0.9%, giving the struggling city an extra \$125,240.

America's Water Supply: The Corrosion of a Proud Tradition

By Robert Glennon, Scientific American 08/29/16

The debacle in Flint, Michigan was a betrayal of the public trust at every level of government. The horror of people drinking poisoned water is a microcosm of the sad deterioration of one of America's greatest accomplishments: the creation of infrastructure to provide virtually universal access to clean water and wastewater treatment. Across America, water and sewer plants, pipes, and valves are reaching or beyond the end of their useful lives. By failing to invest in maintaining the city's drinking water infrastructure, Flint officials acted no differently than those in thousands of other communities — high- and low-income — who are neglecting the promise of government that all residents have the right to clean water.

Clinton, Trump Urged to Make Water Infrastructure Priority

By Amena H. Saiyid, Bloomberg BNA 08/28/16

Water infrastructure investment should be a national priority in the wake of the lead-in-water crisis in Flint, Mich., and the ongoing drought in the West, an association for publicly owned wastewater utilities told presidential candidates. The National Association of Clean Water Agencies made the plea in letters to Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton and Republican candidate Donald Trump. “The recent drinking water crisis in Flint, Michigan has had devastating impacts for residents of that community, but has also made all Americans painfully aware of what can happen when their water systems become tainted and their water infrastructure is unreliable. At the same time, the ongoing drought in the West has reminded many that reliable water supplies cannot be taken for granted,” wrote Raymond Marshall, NACWA president, and Adam Krantz, NACWA chief executive officer, in Aug. 24 letters to the presidential candidates.

Other News

[Children's book pays tribute to unsung heroes of Flint water crisis: kids](#)

By Stateside Staff, Michigan Radio 08/26/16 [radio clip]

There are several people who have been called heroes in uncovering the Flint water crisis. You’ve heard those voices many times on this station. But a new book -- a children’s book -- makes the argument that kids are the heroes, because Flint kids have had to learn new ways to eat, drink, and live their lives. The title of Gale Glover’s book is Learning, Recycling, and Becoming Little Heroes.

[Don't forget the children of Flint](#)

By Claire Fisher, Grand Valley Lanthorn 08/28/16 11:24 PM

Out of the news, out of our minds. Often, when world issues stop appearing in our Facebook feeds or stop being discussed by our favorite news outlets, we assume the problem is resolved or forget that the tragedy even happened. We aren’t bad people for moving on, there are so many catastrophes and crises in the news to worry about. As human beings and residents of Michigan, there is one group of people in need we should keep on our minds—the children of Flint.

[Flint water crisis can't put a damper on 40th running of Crim races](#)

By Gary Ridley, MLIVE 08/28/16 8:49 AM

Saturday was a celebration of Flint's past. But, it would have been difficult for the thousands of participants in the 40th Crim Festival of Races to complete the course without at least a glimpse at the city's future. About 15,000 racers took the starting line for the Aug. 27 event, among them 17 runners who braved the bricks for each of the 39 previous races. Roughly 140 competitors had tackled the course at least 30 times prior, organizers said.

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